

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016



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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

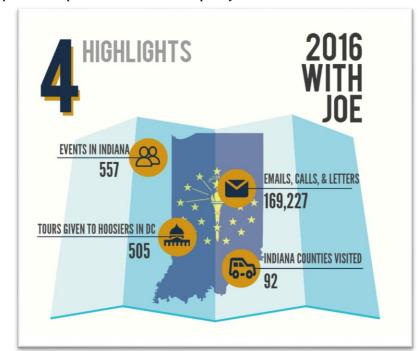
### **Executive Summary**

In 2016, Joe led and supported legislative efforts — several of which were passed and enacted into law — and worked tirelessly on issues important to Hoosiers. He again was recognized as one of the most bipartisan Senators. And, as part of his continued promise to provide Hoosiers with quality customer

service and assistance, he worked to help constituents across the state resolve issues with federal agencies, such as obtaining Social Security, Medicare, or veterans' benefits.

Among Joe's accomplishments in 2016:

- Joe visited 92 counties, and hosted or participated in 557 events and meetings in 112 cities and towns over 223 days in Indiana.
- Joe's office heard from constituents from 92 counties and logged a total of 169,227contacts, including emails, calls, mail, and faxes.
- His staff worked with Hoosiers seeking assistance with federal agencies and resolved 2,065 cases, resulting in more than \$2.5 million in federal benefits being returned to constituents.



- Joe partnered with Republican colleagues on several successful legislative efforts. Four of these efforts were signed into law:
  - Addressing the opioid abuse and heroin use crises: Several of Joe's provisions aimed at
    fighting the opioid abuse epidemic became law in 2016 as part of the Comprehensive
    Addiction and Recovery Act, and he helped secure funding that will provide important
    resources to fight this public health crisis.
  - Improving military mental health care: The final provision of Joe's bipartisan
     "Servicemember and Veteran Mental Health Care Package" was signed into law, allowing
     the Department of Defense to improve access to mental health care for servicemembers
     through the training of physicians' assistants.
  - Finding a biotechnology labeling solution: Joe worked with his Republican and Democratic colleagues to pass into law a federal biotechnology labeling solution that will provide consumers across the country with access to information about the food they eat and feed to their families, while also providing certainty to our hard-working Hoosier farmers and food manufacturers.
  - Spurring medical innovation: Joe helped pass the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act into law, which
    included several provisions similar to his "Medical Innovation Agenda" that will bring safe
    drugs and devices to the public more quickly.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- Joe's leadership resulted in significant accomplishments across Indiana, including:
  - Final Army land transfer to River Ridge: Joe helped the River Ridge Development Authority take ownership of the last remaining land from the Army, clearing the way for the next phase of economic growth at the River Ridge Commerce Center.
  - HIDTA designations in Marion County and LaPorte County: Joe supported Marion County and LaPorte County's successful applications for High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) designations from the Office of National Drug Control Policy, which will help address drug trafficking.
  - o **First-ever visit by Defense Secretary to Crane:** Joe invited and hosted Defense Secretary Ash Carter for a historic visit to Crane. During the visit, Carter called Crane "a national treasure."

  - o **Federal grants for Indianapolis:** Joe supported and announced several significant federal grants that will benefit Indianapolis, including funding to help IndyEast businesses grow and hire local workers and to hire a Recovery Coordinator to assist Hoosiers finding new employment opportunities. The funding will assist those harmed by Carrier's decision to ship Hoosier jobs to Mexico.
  - Federal grants to hire police officers: Joe supported successful applications from the Jeffersonville Police Department and Hobart Police Department for federal grants to hire additional police officers.

Joe was recognized for his work on behalf of Hoosiers with several awards. He received awards from the business and agricultural communities and for his work to address the opioid epidemic.

- Business
  - U.S. Chamber of Commerce "Spirit of Enterprise" award for supporting policies that encourage economic growth and job creation.
  - o **National Federation of Independent Business "Guardian of Business" award** for his work on policies that support small businesses.
  - National Association of Manufacturers "Manufacturing Legislative Excellence" award for supporting manufacturing jobs and companies in Indiana and across the country.
  - o **Recreational Vehicle Industry Association Champions award** for supporting issues important to the recreational vehicle manufacturers.
- Agriculture:
  - o **Indiana Farm Bureau "Friend of the Farm Bureau" award** for his work and support for policies that benefit Hoosier farmers.
  - o **Indiana Corn Growers Association "Friend of Farmers" award** for his work advocating for the state's agricultural community.
  - National Corn Growers Association President's award for his work to advance issues important to corn farmers and the agricultural community.
- Opioid Abuse
  - Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America "Congressional Leadership" award for his work to enhance substance abuse prevention, education, treatment, and research.

### **BIPARTISANSHIP**

### Bipartisanship

Joe believes the most effective way to serve Hoosiers is to support the best ideas, regardless of whether they come from a Republican or Democrat. The Lugar Center and the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University recognized Joe as the second-most bipartisan U.S. Senator in 2015, according to the Bipartisan Index released in March 2016. Joe was the fourth-most bipartisan member of Congress in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

He has worked consistently with his Republican and Democratic colleagues on a range of issues important to Hoosiers from jobs and skills training to opioid and heroin abuse and military and veterans' mental health. In addition, Joe has shown his independence. He was

The Lugar Center - McCourt School Bipartisan Index

Senate Scores

114th Congress First Session (2015)

_						
Senator (by score)						
#	Name		State	Party	Score	
1	Collins	Susan	ME	R	2.27114	
2	Donnelly	Joe	IN	D	1.83206	
3	Kirk	Mark	IL	R	1.49994	
4	Manchin	Joe	WV	D	1.24699	
5	Grassley	Chuck	IA	R	1.21807	
6	Portman	Rob	ОН	R	1.10254	
7	Blunt	Roy	МО	R	0.92726	
8	Moran	Jerry	KS	R	0.90693	
9	Heller	Dean	NV	R	0.89984	
10	Coons	Chris	DE	D	0.87911	

the only Democrat to vote for measures to fund the Department of Defense and support our servicemembers. In addition, he was the lone Democrat to vote to move forward on a measure to combat the Zika virus.

Donnelly ranked as the second most bipartisan senator in 2015...according to The Lugar Center-McCourt School Bipartisan Index, which was released Monday. The index assigns scores based on how often members of Congress co-sponsor bills filed by lawmakers from the opposite party and how often their own bills attract co-sponsors from the opposite party.

"I am the hired help and my job is to get things done for Indiana in the U.S. Senate," Donnelly said in a statement. "That responsibility has nothing to do with party affiliation and everything to do with supporting the best ideas, regardless of whether the idea comes from a Republican or a Democrat."

Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, March 8, 2016

Bipartisanship can and does work in Indiana. Though the headlines don't always tell the story, there is far more bipartisan work happening...than many are aware of... I regularly see examples where common goals bring good minds together for excellent end results. Working with Joe Donnelly for many years, I have seen him as the kind of legislator where we worked on bills together. If he calls me it is not going to be an "R" or a "D" thing. It is what "do we need to get done," and "How do we make things better?"

State Senator Ed Carbonneau, Valpo Life, September 13, 2016

### Strengthening the Economy

Joe remains focused on expanding economic opportunities for Hoosier families and ensuring that every Hoosier who wants a job has a job. He continues to pursue policies to promote economic growth across Indiana and our country. And he remains steadfast in his commitment to supporting companies that want to grow and invest in Indiana while penalizing those that ship Hoosier jobs overseas.

#### ADVOCATING FOR PROJECTS TO SPUR ECONOMIC GROWTH

#### **River Ridge**

In Clark County, the site of a former Army ammunition plant has become the River Ridge Commerce Center, a booming economic hub for numerous businesses that are creating new opportunities for thousands of Hoosiers. To help make this possible. Joe worked closely with the River Ridge Development Authority for more than two years to resolve a longstanding dispute with the Army and allow

River Ridge to acquire high-value property that will help create more jobs in Clark County.

With negotiations to resolve community concerns about an old Army landfill stalled for years, Joe began working in September 2014 with the River Ridge Development Authority on a new round of talks with the Army. That continued in 2015 when Joe convened a meeting with federal, state, and local stakeholders to discuss the status and future of the River Ridge Commerce Center. Following this meeting, he facilitated talks among River Ridge, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to address concerns about potential public health and environmental risks associated with the landfill. These efforts culminated in



### River Ridge celebrates final Army land transfer

The transfer totals 239.4 cres of the original 6,000-acre agreement

BY DANIELLE GRADY

danielie.grady@newsandtrbune.com
CHARLESTOWN — It took
8 years, but on Sept. 30, the
eople involved could finally say
hey did it. They had successfulyt transferred 6,000 acres of U.S.
Army land to the River Ridge my land to the sommerce Center.
River Ridge Development

hority members, local politi-is, U.S. Army representatives a senator gathered Friday

ment.
The transfer of the last 293.4 acres became official Aug. 5, but this was the day to recognize its

ated for the people of this community."
Eventually, the last of the Army's land will become home to businesses like the more than 45 already present in the more developed areas of River Ridge.
The transfer process, however, wasn't without six humps.

OVERCOMING A STALEMATE

In 1998, Congress ssed legislation authorizing 6,000-acre transfer from the my to River Ridge.

River Ridge bought its first parcels of land from the Army in 2005 — a total of 2,300 acres on the south end of the com-

merce center.

That part of the ammunition plant was used for warehousing and distribution and was easy for the Army to prepare for

transfer.
The north end of the plant however, had been home to the

g stepped in.
n as a South Bend resident
U.S. Senator, Donnelly

"Senator Donnelly was instrumental in assisting River Ridge in securing a positive outcome on several outstanding issues with the Army. Those issues were delaying the transfer of some very prime developable property near the new I-265 interchange and potentially could have also delayed this last conveyance. It was critical for River Ridge to obtain ownership of all those parcels in order to continue our path of new developments and job creation for our region."

-Jerry Acy, Executive Director, River Ridge Development Authority, September 30,

October 2015 in an agreement on the Army's responsibility to maintain the safety of the landfill site and the transfer to River Ridge of more than 600 acres of high-value land ripe for redevelopment.

This past year, Joe helped the River Ridge Development Authority take ownership of the last remaining Army acreage, completing the transfer of more than 6,000 acres in total and clearing the way for the next phase of economic growth at the River Ridge Commerce Center.



#### A New Bridge in Anderson

Joe has worked continuously with Hoosier communities to use available federal resources and competitive grants to improve Indiana's economic future. Over the last several years, Joe has worked closely with the City of Anderson, the Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Secretary of Transportation to help the City secure a highly competitive grant through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant (TIGER)

This project would not have received TIGER Grant funding without the years of help from Senator Donnelly. Senator Donnelly has met with officials from Madison County and the City of Anderson several times over the years both in Madison County and in Washington, D.C. to discuss this project and to talk to the Department of Transportation on our behalf. This is a very competitive grant and Madison County would not have received this money to replace the bridge without Senator Donnelly's help.

program. The grant will help Anderson and Madison County rebuild the crumbling Eisenhower Bridge that connects the city's core neighborhoods. The bridge is a critical component of Madison County's economic infrastructure and will be an economic boon for the region.

## Opportunities for Indiana's Promise Zones

In 2015, Joe helped to secure a federal Promise Zone designation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Near Eastside of Indianapolis (IndyEast). The community partners are helping support efforts to create affordable housing and job opportunities, improve education, and reduce violent crime while enabling new

The troubled Near Eastside Neighborhood will receive another infusion of federal dollars – this time an \$800,000 Promise Zone grant – in an effort to turn around an area that's seen some of the worst of Indianapolis' rising violence.

King Park Development Corporation was awarded the grant from the Department of Health and Human Services to help bring new businesses and expand existing ones in the area...The grant was aided by a letter from Sen. Joe Donnelly (D-IN), who also backed the neighborhood's designation as a federal Promise Zone in 2015.

The Promise Zone designation has already brought millions of dollars into the Near Eastside. Federal funding helped entice Team 360 Services to expand and relocate to the area, creating 35 new permanent full-time jobs - 27 of which were reserved for low-income residents of the area. The Promise Zone also secured block grant funds to help Sustainable Local Foods Indiana and Farm 365 establish a 61,000-square-feet hydroponics farm in an old warehouse on South Rural Street.

WRTV, September 23, 2016

pathways to the middle class for those living in the area. That support includes dedicated federal staff on the ground to help the community implement their plans, as well as five full-time AmeriCorps VISTA members to recruit and manage volunteers for the effort over 10 years.

In 2016, several additional Hoosier communities benefited from the Promise Zone program. In June, the City of Evansville received a federal Promise Zone designation to help support efforts to create affordable housing and job opportunities, enabling new pathways to the middle class for local families. In September 2016, Joe announced that, as a part of the neighborhood's Promise Zone designation, King Park Development Corporation, an IndyEast non-profit community development organization, was awarded a significant \$800,000 federal grant. The grant from the Department of Health and Human Services' Community Economic Development program will help IndyEast businesses grow and hire local workers. This will provide opportunities for economic success in a hard-hit area by giving small businesses greater access to capital and low-interest rate loans when they hire unemployed or underemployed workers.

Additionally, with Joe's support, the City of Indianapolis received a competitive grant award from the U.S.

Commerce Department's Economic
Development Agency (EDA) to hire a
Recovery Coordinator. The position will be
tasked with working to mitigate the
hardships of unemployment and finding
alternative employment opportunities,
particularly for those impacted by the job
losses at Indianapolis' Carrier facility over the
next few years.

"This federal grant will help hard-working Hoosiers find new employment opportunities, including those workers harmed by Carrier's decision to ship Hoosier jobs to Mexico," said Senator Donnelly, who wrote a letter supporting the city's grant application. "I was proud to support this effort to bring important, much-needed resources to Hoosier workers and attract new businesses to Indianapolis, helping local families and our community." -Senator Joe Donnelly

CBS 4, September 22, 2016

## Recognized for Supporting Growth for Businesses Large and Small

As part of his effort to visit every corner of Indiana to hear from business leaders and workers, Joe visited with local Chambers of Commerce in communities across the state. Over the year, he met with more than a dozen Indiana chambers. And, in recognition of his support for policies that support job creation, Joe was honored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce with their 'Spirit of Enterprise Award.'

In Indiana, and across the country, small businesses continue to be the backbone of the economy and the heart of their communities. For his support of small businesses and their role in creating economic opportunity for Hoosiers, Joe was recognized with the National Federation of Independent Business 'Guardian of Small Business Award.'

Manufacturing is central to Indiana's economic growth, and provides opportunities for Hoosier families in every corner of the state. Indiana is the most manufacturing-intensive state in the country. Through his "Donnelly Days," —working alongside

Hoosiers in different professions — to meetings with business leaders and workers, and policy proposals, Joe continues to be focused on hearing directly from Hoosiers about how to expand manufacturing in Indiana. And, he is working to prevent the outsourcing of American jobs, while incentivizing companies to stay and grow here in the United States, where they can invest in Hoosier communities. For his support of manufacturing, Joe received the National Association of Manufacturers 'Manufacturing Legislative Excellence Award.'

"Sen. Donnelly recognizes that business is the backbone of Indiana's economy, and we at the Indy Chamber appreciate the senator's continued efforts to make Indiana a prime location for economic growth and entrepreneurial innovation," said Michael Huber, president and CEO of the Indy Chamber.

Greensburg Daily News, November 2, 2016





WYRZ: Donnelly Receives
Award for Supporting
American Manufacturing

October 6, 2016

### Combating Opioid Abuse and Heroin Use Epidemics

As too many Hoosiers have come to know first-hand, opioid abuse and heroin use have created a serious public health crisis. These epidemics have harmed communities throughout Indiana — large and small, urban and rural. Joe believes that it will take everyone working together to stem the tide of the opioid abuse and heroin use epidemics.



Over the last several years, Joe has led efforts to address opioid addiction and abuse. This past year several provisions adopted from his legislation were signed into law and he helped enact funding that will provide important resources to fight this public health crisis. He has worked to improve prescribing practices, raise public awareness, expand access to treatment and recovery services for those overcoming addiction, and he has brought together leaders at the federal, state, and local levels. Joe has listened to Hoosiers—including families, doctors and other prescribers, public health professionals, and community stakeholders. He

continues to work to ensure that our communities and families have the resources needed to prevent heroin use and opioid abuse, treat addiction, and save lives.

# PASSING THE COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT (CARA)

Joe helped the Senate pass the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) in March 2016, and it was signed into law on July 22, 2016. CARA is bipartisan legislation that provides states and local communities with tools to prevent and treat drug addiction and support individuals in recovery.

Several of Joe's provisions aimed at fighting the opioid abuse epidemic became law in 2016 as part of CARA.



These provisions were adopted from his bipartisan legislation with then-Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) to bring experts together to update best practices for pain management and raise awareness among providers, patients, and the public on the dangers of opioid abuse and its connection to heroin.

Joe also offered a bipartisan amendment to CARA with Senator Capito (R-WV) that was unanimously adopted by the Senate. His amendment clarifies that first responder units receiving CARA grant funding for naloxone programs can use those funds to establish outreach coordinators, who would provide individuals who receive naloxone with in-person follow-ups to help connect them with treatment services. Indianapolis EMS began a similar outreach program in winter



2016 designed to connect overdose victims who receive naloxone with the help that they need.

An amendment by Donnelly encourages first responders who administer overdose reversal drugs to use outreach coordinators for follow-up visits with overdose victims. Coordinators would connect overdose victims with treatment services.

CARA also includes provisions adopted from or similar to legislation introduced by Donnelly and Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H. Donnelly's office said those provisions are designed to enhance prescribing best practices, raise public awareness and expand access to the overdose reversal drug naloxone.

Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, March 11, 2016

#### SECURING FUNDING TO ADDRESS THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Joe has actively fought for both new efforts to help with prevention, treatment, and recovery and the funding necessary to support those programs. Over the course of 2016, Joe called on his Senate colleagues to pass necessary, emergency funding to address the opioid epidemic. In September 2016, Joe helped the Senate pass legislation to provide \$37 million in new funding to begin implementation of CARA. These funds are helping jumpstart four grant programs in CARA focused on prevention, treatment, and recovery.

As the opioid abuse and heroin use epidemics continue to devastate communities in Indiana and across our country, Joe also successfully fought to include opioid funding through the bipartisan 21st Century Cures Act, which was signed into law by President Obama in December 2016. The law includes \$1 billion to be spent over two years to help combat opioid abuse and heroin use.

WBIW: Senator Donnelly Helps
Pass Critical Funding To Fight
Opioid Abuse

December 8, 2016



Donnelly, who sent letters of support for both LaPorte and Marion counties, believes cooperation among every level of government and community partners is needed to root out the drug traffickers, expand prevention efforts and increase access to treatment and recovery services.

Donnelly said he was proud to support the two counties in applying for this designation, citing the drug epidemics devastating families and communities in Indiana and around the country.

Indiana Lawyer, October 13, 2016

## Marion County and LaPorte County HIDTA Designations

Joe believes law enforcement, working with other community partners, plays a critical role in responding to the drug epidemic by rooting out drug traffickers and working to dismantle the illicit drug trade. As Indiana and our country fight the drug epidemics, Joe was proud to support Marion County and LaPorte County's successful applications for High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) designations from the Office of National Drug Control Policy. In the fall of 2016, Joe helped Marion County and LaPorte County welcome these federal designations and met with local law enforcement to discuss how these resources will be helpful in addressing drug trafficking. With this additional federal support, Marion County and LaPorte County will be able to increase coordinated drug enforcement operations and support prevention efforts.

#### REDUCING FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO OVER-PRESCRIBING

According to a report that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released in February 2016, deaths from opioid pain relievers as a result of misuse and abuse have soared over the last fifteen years. The report notes that the rise in heroin overdoses may result from increasing rates of prescription opioid addiction, as approximately four out of five new heroin users have abused prescription opioids prior to using heroin. The CDC also reported that healthcare providers wrote 259 million prescriptions for painkillers in 2012. According to the report, such an ample supply of prescription opioids is subject to misuse and diversion, which has become one of the foremost public health challenges facing our nation.

# Bipartisan Efforts with Congresswoman Susan Brooks (IN-05): IU School of Medicine

Joe believes that it will take everyone working together to stem the tide of the opioid abuse and heroin use epidemics. That's why in April 2016, he and Congresswoman Susan Brooks (IN-05) met with Indiana University School of Medicine to learn more about recent changes the largest medical school in the nation made to better educate and train medical students, residents, and current physicians on best prescribing practices, pain management, substance abuse, and addiction treatment. In addition, IU School of Medicine is also working with students in other health professional programs, such as nursing and pharmacy, to integrate the new efforts on pain management across curriculums.



In September 2015, Joe and Congresswoman Brooks co-hosted a roundtable at IUPUI on the need for a collaborative response to these epidemics, including the role medical students, physicians, and other prescribers can play in helping to address opioid addiction.

#### **New INSPECT-VA Partnership**

Joe has long been an advocate of using INSPECT, Indiana's statewide prescription drug monitoring program, to its full potential as he believes it is one of the most promising state-level tools to address prescription drug abuse.

In February 2016, following the Drug Enforcement Administration's inspection of the Marion, Indiana, Veteran Affairs Medical Center, Joe sent a letter to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Bob McDonald, asking a number of questions about the VA's efforts related to prescribing opioids to veterans. He pressed the VA on its progress with providing prescription drug data to INSPECT and addressing barriers preventing VA Medical Centers in Indiana from fully participating in the INSPECT. Following the letter, Joe's office had numerous conversations with Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis, the VA, and the INSPECT program to monitor the progress of integration between Indiana's VA Medical Centers and INSPECT.

In March 2016, the Joe welcomed the announcement that Indiana's VA hospitals and the INSPECT program would begin a partnership. The partnership began with a pilot program at Roudebush VA Medical Center and has since expanded to include all Indiana VA hospitals.

The INSPECT-VA partnership requires veterans' prescriptions dispensed through the VA to be included in INSPECT's online database, allowing health care professionals to access this information. This sharing of information aims to help health care professionals identify at-risk patients. Joe will continue monitoring the success of the INSPECT-VA partnership, and he is committed to continuing to work on addressing the opioid epidemic for our veterans and all Hoosiers.

#### **Eliminating Incentives for Over-Prescribing**

In February 2016, Joe and a bipartisan group of Senators urged the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to evaluate whether certain questions about pain management practices on hospital patient-satisfaction surveys, and their impact on reimbursement rates, were a contributing factor to the nationwide prescription opioid abuse epidemic. Some health care providers believe that the wording of questions about pain management during a hospital stay may have encouraged health care professionals to prescribe opioid pain relievers to improve hospital performance on these surveys.

In November 2016, Centers for Medicare/Medicaid (CMS) announced that they will remove the questions about pain management from hospital satisfaction surveys in order to eliminate any financial pressure on providers to overprescribe medication.



# RECOGNIZED BY NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG COALITION (CADCA)

Joe was recognized in February 2016 by a national anti-drug coalition for his continued efforts to fight the opioid abuse and heroin use epidemics. He received the Congressional Leadership Award from the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) in February 2016. CADCA's Congressional Leadership Award recognizes members of Congress who have championed strategies to enhance substance abuse prevention, education, treatment, and research.

### SERVICEMEMBER AND VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH

#### Servicemember and Veterans Mental Health

For four years, Joe has worked to find commonsense, bipartisan solutions to combat suicide among servicemembers and strengthen military mental health care. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Joe has successfully fought for the resources and programs necessary to provide better quality and access to care for those who have served our nation in uniform. Four of Joe's military mental health reform efforts have passed and been enacted through his four years in the U.S. Senate.



In 2014, Joe's Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act passed and was signed into law later that year. It requires for the first time that every servicemember – Active, Guard, or Reserve – receive an annual mental health assessment. The Sexton Act is named for Jacob Sexton, a member of the Indiana National Guard from Farmland, Indiana, who tragically took his own life in 2009 while home on leave from Afghanistan. Joe worked with Jacob's parents in an effort to prevent other families from going through what the Sexton family experienced after losing Jacob in 2009. Joe has pressed for rapid implementation of the Sexton Act and got confirmation in September 2016 from each of the military service chiefs and the Secretary of Defense that the law would be fully implemented in 2017.

Fox 59: Sen. Donnelly pushes more military mental health resources for service members May 31, 2016 Building on the legislative success of the Sexton Act, in 2015, Joe introduced his "Servicemember and Veteran Care Package." The "Care Package" was designed to ensure that our servicemembers have access to quality mental health care whether they seek private sector care through specially-trained community mental health providers or through the Department of Defense (DoD) or the

## SERVICEMEMBER AND VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH



Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The last piece of Joe's "Care Package" was his Frontline Mental Health Provider Training Act, which was signed into law in December 2016. Given the nationwide shortage of military mental health providers, Joe's provision allows the Department of Defense to establish a pilot program to expand the availability of Physician Assistants (PAs) to provide mental health care evaluations and services for servicemembers and military families.

Joe's final "Care Package" provision was included in the Senate-passed national defense bill, which

passed the Senate in June.

Now that every piece of the "Care Package" has been signed into law, Joe will continue to focus on the implementation of each program to ensure that the Department of Defense is following through and that servicemembers are able to access care as intended by his legislation.

Legislation introduced by Sen. Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., was included in the National Defense Authorization Act signed last week by President Barack Obama.

Donnelly's provision allows the Department of Defense to establish a pilot program to expand the availability of physician assistants to provide mental health care evaluations and services for members of the military and their families.

It was the fourth provision of Donnelly's Servicemember and Veteran Mental Health Care Package to be signed into law since 2014. The others require yearly mental health assessments for all military service personnel; create a special designation for private-sector mental health providers that demonstrate a strong knowledge of military culture and mental health issues; and require Defense Department primary care and mental health care providers to receive training on suicide risk recognition and management.

Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, December 27, 2016

## PREVENTING CRIME AND IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY

### Preventing Crime and Improving Public Safety

Joe believes that every Hoosier deserves the right to feel safe sitting on their front porch. Unfortunately, crime continues to be a serious concern for a number of communities, and too many Hoosiers have lost loved ones to crime or live in neighborhoods that they feel are not safe to raise their families. Working in partnership with community members, local leaders, and law enforcement across Indiana, Joe has led efforts to combat drug epidemics, supported commonsense strategies that address the many other underlying factors that contribute to crime, and worked to ensure our state and local law enforcement have the resources they need to protect Hoosier families.

#### MARION COUNTY AND LAPORTE COUNTY HIDTA DESIGNATIONS

As Indiana and our country fight the drug epidemics that are devastating families and communities, Joe was proud to support Marion County and LaPorte County's successful applications for High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) designations from the Office of National Drug Control Policy. The designations will provide Marian and LaPorte counties with additional federal support to increase drug enforcement operations, support prevention efforts, and improve public health and safety.

"We sincerely appreciate the support of U.S. Senator Joe Donnelly and assistance from IMPD, Marion County Sheriff's Office, and other federal, state and local law enforcement partners in making this application successful."

-Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry

CBS 4, October 13, 2016

## COPS HIRING PROGRAM GRANT: JEFFERSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND HOBART POLICE DEPARTMENT

Joe supported successful applications from the Jeffersonville Police Department and Hobart Police Department for federal grants to hire new police officers through the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program. The Jeffersonville Police Department

Hobart Mayor Brian Snedecor on Friday swore in the city's newest police officer, bringing the force up to 63 full-time officers. Michael Gallagher, of Hobart, was a reserve officer with the Hobart Police Department for nearly three years, during which time he volunteered more than 1,100 hours to the program, Chief Richard Zormier said...Gallagher's hiring was made possible through a COPS grant that was supported by U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly.

Post-Tribune, December 3, 2016

received funding to hire two new officers and the Hobart Police Department received funding to hire an additional officer.

The COPS Hiring Program is designed to advance public safety through community policing by addressing the full-time sworn officer needs of state, local, and tribal law enforcement

## PREVENTING CRIME AND IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY

agencies nationwide. The program provides funds directly to law enforcement agencies to hire new or rehire career law enforcement officers and to increase their community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts.

#### BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM SIGNED INTO LAW

The safety of our communities begins with the safety of the law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line everyday while protecting communities across Indiana.

That's why Joe co-sponsored and helped the Senate pass the bipartisan Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program Reauthorization Act, which was signed into law in May 2016. This legislation extends a program that helps local law enforcement agencies in Indiana and across the country purchase bulletproof vests.

"This bipartisan bill...is important to helping ensure the safety of our law enforcement officers. Officers face very dangerous situations while serving in the line of duty, and these protective vests can help prevent injury and even save lives."

-Joe

Since 1999, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant program has helped more than 13,000 local law enforcement agencies around the country purchase more than 1.2 million vests. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, Indiana law enforcement agencies received \$457,423 through the program, which helped 103 communities to purchase a total of 2,310 vests.

#### POLICE ACT SIGNED INTO LAW

Joe co-sponsored and helped the Senate pass the bipartisan POLICE Act, which was signed into law in July 2016. This legislation allows the Justice Department to make COPS grants available to state and local law enforcement to support active shooter response training. The departments that receive the grants will be required to use a nationally recognized active shooter training program that offers scenario-based, integrated response courses designed to counter active shooter threats or acts of terrorism.

#### CHILDREN OF FALLEN HEROES SCHOLARSHIP ACT PASSES SENATE

In addition to standing with our law enforcement officers, Joe has worked to support the families of law enforcement officers and first responders. In an effort to ease the financial burden of a college education for families who have lost a parent in the line of duty, Joe helped to introduce the *Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act*. This bipartisan legislation would allow the child of a fallen first responder who qualifies for a federal Pell Grant to be eligible for the maximum Pell Grant award.

# HIGHLIGHTING INDIANA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

# Highlighting Indiana's Contributions to our National Security

Indiana plays a significant role in our nation's defense. Hoosier men and women serve in the active duty military, as members of the National Guard, and as reservists. And every day thousands of Hoosier civilians go to work at Indiana's military installations or at one of the numerous companies across the state that provide our servicemembers with the tools and technology they need to be successful. Joe has worked hard to support and to showcase Hoosier contributions to our national security.

#### SHOWCASING CRANE'S CUTTING-EDGE WORK

Naval Support Activity Crane located in southwest Indiana is the U.S. Navy's third-largest installation. The base is home to Navy and Army commands, including Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Crane and Crane Army Ammunition Activity, and the facility's Hoosier workforce supports Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Marines across the country and around the world. Across these Navy and Army missions, Crane employs more than 5,000 Hoosiers and contributes more than \$800 million annually to Indiana's economy. Crane celebrated 75 years of excellence in 2016.

#### **Secretary of Defense Carter at Crane**

In June, Joe hosted then-U.S. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter at Crane – after inviting Carter to come and see firsthand the important work happening at the base. Crane, which is Indiana's largest military facility, is home to numerous research laboratories, testing facilities, and cutting-edge technology development centers that are helping to provide our servicemembers with the best tools available to maintain a decisive advantage

Indiana Public Media: Donnelly, Secretary Of Defense Visit NSA Crane Base

June 23, 2016

over our adversaries. During the historic visit - the first by a sitting Defense Secretary - Carter called Crane



"This is a national treasure,"
Carter said, thanking Donnelly
"for knowing the importance
of this place."

Herald Times, June 23, 2016

# HIGHLIGHTING INDIANA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

a "national treasure" with a bright future. The visit was part of Carter's effort to see installations preparing and training our warfighters of the future.



#### **Chief of Naval Operations at Crane**

In August, the U.S. Chief of Naval Operations Admiral John Richardson visited Crane at Joe's invitation. Joe and the Admiral toured the base, spoke with Crane's workforce, and saw firsthand technology at Crane's labs that provides our nation's warfighters with a decisive advantage on the battlefield, now and in the future. During his visit, Admiral Richardson thanked Joe for his invitation, for his support of Crane, and for his leadership. Richardson also echoed the comments of Secretary Carter by stating that Crane is vital to our national security.



#### FORT WAYNE AIR NATIONAL GUARD

In northeast Indiana, Fort Wayne's 122<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing – part of the Indiana Air National Guard – is a vital component of the region's economy and our nation's military readiness. Joe has consistently fought for Fort Wayne to maintain its role as one of the nation's best air combat units, whether in A-10s, F-16s or next generation F-35 aircraft.

# HIGHLIGHTING INDIANA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

#### **Advocating for Fort Wayne's Combat Mission**

When the Air Force considered retiring the A-10 Warthog currently flown by the  $122^{nd}$  Fighter Wing, Joe met repeatedly with Air Force leadership and secured commitments from two successive Air Force Chiefs of Staff to ensure Fort Wayne's Airmen will fly manned combat missions for decades to come. Joe has also advocated for bringing the cutting edge F-35 to Fort Wayne and helped get a provision included in the national defense bill that was signed into law, allowing the Air Force to move F-16s to Fort Wayne, whether or not the A-10 is retired, as a bridge until F-35s become available for the base.



#### Fort Wayne Air Show

In September, Joe served as the honorary air boss for the Fort Wayne Air Show and helped bring the Air Force Thunderbirds to Fort Wayne for a demonstration. At the air show, Joe met with Hoosier servicemembers and highlighted the  $122^{nd}$  Fighter Wing as one of the nation's best air combat units.

#### **CUTTING-EDGE DEFENSE RESEARCH**

The Department of Defense is increasingly emphasizing the need for partnerships across public, private, and academic institutions to advance the scope and pace of innovation in military systems and maintain America's technological edge. In that context, Joe has worked to raise awareness among military leaders of the cutting edge research at Purdue, Notre Dame and other Indiana colleges and universities. In March, Purdue and Notre Dame were



awarded merit-based grants to support their national defense-focused science and engineering research.

### Standing Up for Indiana and Every Hoosier

At the core of Joe's work in Congress is the belief that the economy works best when Hoosier families are able to work hard, support their families, educate their children, and retire with dignity and peace of mind. That is achieved in part by ensuring that every Hoosier who wants a job has a job. While Indiana's economy continued to grow over the last year, too many Hoosiers are still struggling to feel the benefits of the economic recovery.

Joe has continued to lead the charge to keep good-paying jobs here in America, particularly in the steel and manufacturing sectors that are vital to Indiana's economy.

#### PREVENTING THE OFFSHORING OF HOOSIER JOBS

Joe believes that when companies invest in workers and communities here in America, they should be rewarded, and companies that outsource jobs to Mexico or overseas should be penalized.

Unfortunately, Indiana has seen too many examples of companies deciding to upend the lives of Hoosiers to instead chase cheap wages in foreign countries.

In response to the decision by Carrier in Indianapolis and UTEC in Huntington to move 2,100 jobs to Mexico, Joe released a white paper outlining several policy proposals intended to prevent the further offshoring of Hoosier and American jobs. The proposals would reward companies that invest in the U.S. and penalize those that outsource jobs to countries like Mexico and China. With subsequent outsourcing

Senator Joe Donnelly's
Anti-Offshoring Proposals

1. Deny Expensing for Offshore Moving Costs
2. Claw-Back and Restrict Tax Incentives
3. Consider Offshoring as a Factor in Federal Contracting
4. Incentives to Invest in Rural & Low-Income Communities

announcements by Rexnord in Indianapolis and CTS in Elkhart, the need for smarter policies has never been greater.

The policy recommendations, which were sent to President-elect Trump, congressional leadership, and the Senate Finance Committee for consideration in any future tax reform discussion, would do the following:

- 1. **Deny Expensing for Outsourcing Moving Costs:** When corporations fire American workers and send those jobs abroad, those corporations should not be permitted to deduct moving costs from their taxes.
- 2. **Claw-back and Restrict Tax Incentives:** When corporations outsource jobs, taxpayers should be reimbursed for the recent grants and tax breaks received at those facilities.

- 3. **Consider Offshoring as a Factor when Awarding Federal Contracts:** As federal contracting officers decide which goods and services to purchase with U.S. tax dollars, they currently consider a host of factors including cost, past performance, and technical quality. They should also consider whether the bidding corporation has pursued cheaper foreign labor at the expense of American workers in the past.
- 4. Incentives to Invest in Rural and Low-Income Communities: By offering tax breaks to companies that return jobs from foreign countries to low-income and rural communities in the U.S., we can reward companies that choose to hire American workers, while encouraging domestic economic growth.

Joe has consistently been open to working with anyone – Republicans or Democrats – to protect Hoosier workers and their families as we work to incentivize investments in American jobs. In December, Joe led several of his Senate colleagues in calling on the new Trump Administration to work with them as they introduce legislation to prevent the further offshoring of Hoosier and American jobs in the next Congress. For the workers who have had their lives upended by corporate decisions to



# After Carrier: New plan from Sen. Donnelly to help keep jobs in U.S.

OSTED: 2:33 PM, May 18, 2016

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Indiana Senator Joe Donnelly offered a proposal Wednesday to prevent future loss of Hoosier and American jobs to other countries.

The proposal would reward companies that invest in the U.S. and penalize those that move jobs to countries like Mexico and China.

Donnelly's recommendations follow last February's announcement that Carrier would move 1,400 jobs from Indianapolis to Monterrey, Mexico.

We have an obligation to try to prevent the next Carrier and ensure that federal policies are designed to benefit the U.S. economy and that we encourage investment in the foundation of our economy—American workers, their families, and communities.

move operations outside the United States, Joe has consistently fought for federal resources and benefits, including Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) to help workers find new employment or get additional skills training. In addition, with Joe's support, the City of Indianapolis was awarded a competitive grant from the U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Agency to assist workers in mitigating the hardships of unemployment and finding new employment opportunities, particularly those impacted by the job losses at Carrier.

#### FIGHTING AGAINST ILLEGAL STEEL DUMPING

Indiana's steel industry has been hard hit over the past decades, leading to devastating job cuts. While Indiana accounts for one quarter of all U.S. domestic steel production, illegally-dumped steel from China and other countries has flooded the American market, dramatically lowering prices and unfairly putting American workers at a competitive disadvantage.



As part of his advocacy, Joe has said that Congress and the Obama administration must work together to prevent further job losses in the steel industry and allow the industry to grow. Joe called on President Obama to prioritize enforcement against illegally-dumped steel and use all available tools and resources to combat illegal trade. In his letter to the President, Joe stated, in part, "The status quo is not acceptable when facilities are closing and steelworkers are losing jobs...It is crucial that you use every tool in your toolbox to combat illegal trade because communities in Indiana are relying on it."

#### WORKING TO HELP EAST CHICAGO RESIDENTS IMPACTED BY USS LEAD SUPERFUND SITE

After learning of the extensive and dangerous lead pollution in the areas near the former USS Lead facility,

Joe has worked tirelessly with his colleague U.S. Representative Pete Visclosky (IN-1) and local officials to





ensure a thorough response that would best protect the Hoosier families impacted by the contamination, including those living in the West Calumet Housing Complex.

Joe and his colleagues worked with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to coordinate a response for the impacted families. They pushed HUD for emergency funding to help the more than 1,000 residents of the West Calumet Housing Complex find new homes. In addition, Joe spoke directly with both then-HUD Secretary Julián Castro and then-EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy about the need to respond quickly and provide a long-term solution to address this public health crisis. As a result, HUD approved emergency federal funding to cover the costs for families to relocate, and while the families search for new homes, EPA provided residents with the opportunity to have their homes and furniture cleaned to significantly reduce lead contamination.



Joe and his colleagues are also working with local officials to ensure that after the West Calumet Housing Complex is vacated, the site can be quickly remediated and redeveloped. And for impacted residents in other areas, EPA has begun remediating properties in the fall of 2016 and cleanup will continue in the spring. As the City of East Chicago continues working toward a long-term solution, Joe, along with then-U.S. Senator Dan Coats and Representative Visclosky called on HUD to quickly review and approve the city's application for Emergency Capital Funding. In their letter, they pointed to the city's work to ensure the safety and security of the site, and its goal of demolishing the housing structures.

Joe visited the West Calumet Housing Complex in East Chicago in September 2016 to speak directly with residents and hear their concerns firsthand. He and his office have been and will continue to be in regular contact with local, state, and federal officials, including HUD and EPA, both on the ground and in their regional and national offices to ensure that impacted residents get the support they deserve.

# BRIDGING THE SKILLS GAP AND WORKFORCE TRAINING

As part of Joe's effort to ensure that workers of every age can obtain a job and to help close the skills gap, he continues to work with local partners to ensure Hoosiers have skills and technical training to compete in today's economy.

In August 2016, Joe visited Nestle with Ivy Tech Community College President Sue Ellspermann to learn about apprenticeship programs and the positive impact the partnership between Nestle and Ivy Tech has had on workforce training in the Anderson area. Following the



visit, Joe announced his support for the bipartisan *Leveraging and Energizing America's Apprenticeship Programs* (LEAP) *Act*, which would provide tax credits to businesses that hire apprentices.

#### BOOSTING THE INDIANA RV AND MANUFACTURED HOUSING ECONOMIES

Indiana is the home to the recreational vehicle (RV) capital of the world, and the industry employs thousands of Hoosiers, particularly in Elkhart and across the north central region of the state. Along with then-Senator Dan Coats, Joe worked with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to update outdated definitions and rules around RVs so that the industry can continue its renaissance and provide more high-quality jobs for Hoosiers. For his work on behalf of Hoosiers in the RV industry, Joe received the RV Champion Award for 2016 with his friend and colleague Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA).





## KEEPING A PROMISE MADE TO INDIANA'S MINERS

Indiana is home to thousands of retired miners and their families who rely on pensions and health benefits. More than 1,000 of these miners will lose their health benefits in the coming months, unless Congress helps provide a long-term solution. Joe has and continues to be a vocal advocate for the passage of the bipartisan *Miners Protection Act,* communicating directly with congressional leadership and on the floor of the Senate about the importance of quick consideration and passage.



## GRANT FOR INDYEAST AND FEDERAL PROMISE ZONE DESIGNATION FOR EVANSVILLE

The Promise Zone initiative is part of a federal effort to collaborate with and invest in communities to create jobs, leverage private investment, increase economic activity, expand educational opportunities, and improve public safety.

In September, Joe announced a major grant for the Near Eastside of Indianapolis (IndyEast), which in 2015—with his support—was designated as a Promise Zone. King Park Development Corporation, an IndyEast nonprofit community development organization, was awarded an \$800,000 federal grant from the Department of Health and Human Services' Community Economic Development program to help IndyEast

WEHT: Sen. Donnelly: Promise Zone Designation 'Good News'

June 6, 2016

businesses grow and hire local workers. Joe supported the King Park Development Corporation's application, and this grant will provide opportunities for economic success in a hard-hit area.

In June, Joe welcomed the announcement that the City of Evansville would be receiving a federal Promise Zone designation. This designation through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will help support creating affordable housing and job opportunities, improving education, and reducing violent crime while enabling new pathways to the middle class for those living in the area.

At the time of the announcement, Joe said, "This is great news for Evansville. This partnership between the federal government, local community, and a consortium of local organizations and residents, gives the city a chance to create new economic opportunities and build a stronger Evansville."

# KEEPING HOOSIERS SAFE, PROMOTING SAFE COMMUNITIES

## Keeping Hoosiers Safe, Promoting Safe Communities

Joe's first and foremost responsibility as a United States Senator is the safety and security of Hoosiers and all Americans. Joe has worked to make Indiana safer by partnering with local leaders, law enforcement,

educators, and residents to help Hoosiers address safety concerns in their communities.

#### **INVEST TO PREVENT CRIME ACT**

In December 2016, Joe and Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) introduced the bipartisan Investing in Neighborhood-focused, Vital, Evidence-based Strategies and Trust to Prevent Crime Act (INVEST to Prevent Crime). This legislation would create a grant program at the Justice Department that would bring local

"The best results to combatting persistent crime come from engaging both the people who live in communities and those tasked to protect them. This bipartisan legislation would support that approach and will help communities across Indiana and our country make life safer for their residents and businesses." -Joe

law enforcement, community leaders, stakeholders, and residents together to plan and implement local solutions to the specific drivers of crime in their neighborhoods. The INVEST program is modeled off of an existing Department of Justice pilot program that is currently operating in Indianapolis and Evansville.

#### FEDERAL GRANT FOR INDIANA COALITION TO END SEXUAL ASSAULT

All Hoosier students deserve to get an education without fearing for their personal safety. Joe supported the Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault's (ICESA) successful application to secure federal grant funding for their "Ending College Campus Sexual Assault" plan.

ICESA will use the federal grant to partner with the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, IUPUI, Marian University, University of Indianapolis, Franklin College, DePauw University, IU Kokomo, IU Northwest, IUPUC, Butler University, Purdue University, St. Mary's College, and several domestic and sexual violence prevention nonprofits to develop a comprehensive training and communications program.

#### FBI BRIEFING IN INDIANAPOLIS

Joe has prioritized meeting with Indiana law enforcement agencies and officials to ensure they have the necessary support at every level and resources to keep Hoosiers safe. For example, as part of Joe's continued efforts to ensure law enforcement has the resources they need, Joe met with the FBI in Indianapolis to discuss the FBI's partnership with local law enforcement and other federal, state, and local agencies through its Joint Terrorism Task Force, as well as their efforts to address threats in Indiana.

During his meeting with the FBI and local law enforcement Joe was briefed on potential threats in Indiana, and got an update about how the FBI is working with state and local law enforcement to keep our communities safe and prevent potential attacks from homegrown terrorists. Joe believes it's critical that our law enforcement officials have the tools, resources, and support to be effective.

## **INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE**

### Investing in Infrastructure

Joe knows that safe, efficient, and effective infrastructure is critical to keeping Indiana's workers and companies competitive in the global economy. Indiana needs well-maintained roads and transit systems, so that Hoosier families can get to work and school safely; our manufacturers, farmers, and small businesses need well-functioning railroads, waterways, and airports to move their products to markets; and our communities need safe drinking and wastewater systems that are critical to our way of life. And, Indiana's economy needs smart investments in infrastructure to attract new companies, businesses, and visitors to our state.

## WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE NATION ACT SIGNED INTO LAW

Joe helped the Senate pass the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, which was signed into law in December 2016 and will authorize construction projects for our country's systems of locks, dams, ports, and flood control systems. The bill funds construction projects to modernize our nation's inland waterway systems and Great Lakes ports to support Hoosier jobs that depend on commercially navigable channels. It also authorizes the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to better protect and restore the habitat of the lakes.

#### INDIANAPOLIS AIRPORT GRANT

Joe welcomed a Federal Aviation Administration grant that he supported, which awarded more than \$1.4 million to the Indianapolis Airport Authority. The grant will be used to help the Airport Authority rehabilitate the taxiways, the stormwater management system and emergencynotification equipment for the Indianapolis International Airport and its feeder airfields.

"Indianapolis International Airport is consistently ranked as one of the best in America, and this grant will help make further improvements to airport infrastructure, expanding the facility's capacity," Sen. Donnelly said in his letter to the FAA. "As we keep working to make Indianapolis, and our entire state, a place where people want to travel, do business, and raise a family, we will need to keep improving our infrastructure."

## FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION AND MEASURES TO IMPROVE PASSENGER SAFETY

Joe helped the Senate pass bipartisan legislation that is now law, reauthorizing the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). It includes several measures that will benefit Hoosiers, including significant passenger-friendly improvements, investments in airport infrastructure, and enhancements in safety for air travelers. The legislation also included an amendment Joe supported to help protect travelers in parts of the airport outside of security screening, better vet airport employees with access to secure areas, and upgrade security for international flights coming to the United States, particularly from countries that lack state-of-the-art screening equipment. The bill reauthorized the FAA through September 2017.

## **SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS**

### **Supporting Our Veterans**

Joe is committed to supporting our veterans, ensuring our nation keeps its promise of quality health care and benefits as well as making sure our veterans get the recognition and support they have earned. Joe believes the VA needs the resources to accomplish its mission, and when the VA fails to provide the level of service and care veterans deserve, the VA and its employees need to be held accountable. To improve services for Hoosier veterans, Joe has worked to address issues with the Veterans Choice Program, improve privacy protections for veterans' medical information, and recognize Vietnam and Gulf War veterans for their service to the nation.

#### PROTECTING VETERANS CREDIT ACT

Despite reforms to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), too many veterans are still facing long wait times for care and challenges making appointments. Since the VA's Veterans Choice Program became law more than two years ago, many veterans have been able to see their own local doctor using their VA benefits. The good news is that more Hoosier veterans are able to see doctors closer to home. Unfortunately, veterans continue to face challenges with the implementation of

The Herald Bulletin: Donnelly bill puts focus on veterans

September 7, 2016

the Choice Program, including the timely payment of veterans' medical bills.

In response, Joe joined with Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD) to introduce the *Protecting Veterans Credit* Act, which would delay for one year medical debt from being reported to credit agencies for veterans who have accessed services through the Veterans Choice Program and other similar VA community care programs. This would allow time for payment issues to be resolved without impacting veterans' credit scores. The one-year delay would start when a debt collector sends the veteran a statement.

Senator Joe Donnelly is again pursuing legislation to benefit veterans. He has introduced a bill called the Protecting Veterans Credit Act. It says that if a veteran receives private health care approved through the Veterans Administration and the VA fails to pay in a timely fashion, credit agencies would be prevented from reducing a credit score.

WISH TV, September 7, 2016

Several advocacy and veterans' advocacy organizations support the legislation, including the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the National Patient Advocate Foundation.

#### **IMPROVING CALL WAIT TIMES**

As Hoosier veterans experienced problems using the Veterans Choice Program, Joe called for answers and solutions by contacting the President of Health Net Federal Services – one of the third-party vendors

## **SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS**

contracted by the VA to administer and implement the Veterans Choice Program in Indiana. Joe wrote letters, had meetings, and spoke out on the Senate floor, demanding Health Net Federal Services improve its service to the majority of Hoosier veterans who must go through the company to schedule their medical appointments under the Veterans Choice Program.

Since Joe's engagement, Health Net Federal Services increased staffing and opened an additional call center in an effort to reduce wait times and the number of disconnected calls. As Joe has said, it will take everyone working together—Health Net, VA, Indiana providers, and veterans—to make sure Hoosier veterans can access timely and quality care and that action is taken to improve the Veterans Choice Program.

#### **VETERANS FIRST ACT**

As part of his ongoing efforts to address issues with the Veterans Choice Program and reduce the long wait times that Hoosier veterans continue to face, Joe announced his support for the bipartisan *Veterans First Act*. The bipartisan legislation, which passed the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, would improve care at VA hospitals and clinics, and make reforms to the Veterans Choice Program, including streamlining the process for private community medical providers to provide care to veterans. Additionally, the *Veterans First Act* includes provisions that would help VA hire more mental health providers and update VA's opioid prescribing practices, increasing the availability of medication like naloxone to counter the effects of opioid overdoses. The legislation is supported by organizations and groups including the American Legion, Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), Veterans of Foreign Wars USA (VFW), Disabled American Veterans, and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

#### HONORING HOOSIER VETERANS

#### **Gulf War Memorial**

Indiana is home to thousands of American heroes who have served in our nation's armed forces in peacetime and in nearly every major conflict in our country's history. More than 600,000 Americans served in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield, including more than 7,500 Hoosiers. Nearly 300 Americans died in those conflicts.

In recognition of the service and sacrifice of Hoosiers in the First Gulf War, Joe has worked with Senator John Boozman (R-AR) to establish a national Gulf War Memorial in Washington, D.C. In 2014, Joe and Senator Boozman got legislation signed into law through the national defense bill to authorize creation of the

## **SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS**



Memorial. In November 2016, they introduced new legislation to ensure the Memorial is placed in a prominent area in the nation's capital, near our country's other major war memorials.

#### Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act

Many of our Vietnam veterans did not receive the welcome home or the recognition that their honorable service deserved. Joe has worked continuously to honor Vietnam veterans in Indiana and across America.

Joe and U.S. Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA) introduced the *Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act* – a

bipartisan bill that would designate March 29<sup>th</sup> as "National Vietnam War Veterans Day." March 29<sup>th</sup> marks the anniversary of the day that combat forces withdrew from South Vietnam. As Joe has said, this bipartisan legislation would honor a generation of veterans for their bravery and sacrifice. The Vietnam Veterans of America and Veterans of Foreign Wars support the legislation.

#### **Protecting Veterans' Privacy**

Joe believes that Hoosier veterans have the right to expect that their private health information is protected by the VA and other health care providers. Following reports that the VA Northern Indiana Health Care System had mistakenly sent sensitive medical records to the wrong veterans, Joe pressed the VA for a rigorous investigation and called for immediate action to fix the problem.

The review of privacy protections at the VA Northern Indiana Health Care System turned up multiple areas for improvement, and the VA is now implementing these recommendations to prevent similar problems in the future.

#### **Honor Flights and Veterans History Projects**

This past year, Joe thanked Hoosier veterans from across Indiana during seven Honor Flight Trips and attended two Honor Flight events in Indiana. In addition, his staff greeted 13 Honor Flight Trips in DC. The Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created to honor America's military heroes by sponsoring veterans' trips to Washington, D.C., where they can visit and reflect at their memorials.

As part of his commitment to paying tribute to our veterans, Joe's office has hosted Veterans History Project events in collaboration with the Library of Congress. The effort aims to preserve the historic experiences of those who served in the United States military by recording their personal narratives and archiving them for use by historians, teachers, and the public. Joe's office held eight Veteran History Project events across Indiana, recording 70 interviews that will be included in the Library of Congress archives.

# ADVOCATING FOR INDIANA'S AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY

## Advocating for Indiana's Agricultural Community

Indiana's agricultural community continues to be more than a source of pride for Hoosiers: it helps drive the state's economy and provides the food and fuel for families and businesses across the country. As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Joe has worked tirelessly to support policies that benefit Hoosier

farmers and producers, promote conservation efforts, and address the challenges facing our agricultural community.

#### BIOTECHNOLOGY LABELING LEGISLATION

With a confusing and misguided patchwork system of state labeling requirements set to begin in 2016, Joe worked with his Republican and Democratic colleagues to find a federal biotechnology labeling solution that will provide consumers across the country with access to information about the food they eat and feed to their families, while also providing certainty to our hard-working Hoosier farmers and food manufacturers. The biotechnology labeling legislation that Joe helped the Senate pass was the result of Republicans and Democrats working together to achieve shared objectives: to provide consumers with accurate information about the food we eat and to do so without a misleading message that the safe and healthy products that our farmers grow in their fields are somehow unhealthy or dangerous.



Joe was actively involved in working toward the bipartisan agreement on biotechnology labeling. The legislation that was signed into law included provisions based on Joe's amendments that would require clear and direct access to information on bioengineering through multiple methods of disclosure.

#### AGRICULTURAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS RECOGNIZED

Joe's consistent work to fight for Hoosier farmers was recognized by several agricultural groups this year. In February, members of the Indiana Soybean Alliance and Indiana Corn Growers Association awarded Joe with the "Friend of Farmers" award for his support of Indiana farmers' policy efforts. It was the group's first Friend of Farmers award to recognize a local, state, or federal public official who advocates for Indiana's agricultural community.

Following up that honor, in July, Joe was awarded the National Corn Growers Association President's Award in recognition of his efforts to increase opportunities for corn growers to sustainably feed and fuel a growing world. And in October, for his support of farmers



# ADVOCATING FOR INDIANA'S AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY

across the state and the country, Joe received the 'Friend of Farm Bureau Award' from the Indiana Farm Bureau at the Little Ireland Farm in Brownsburg. Joe was recognized for his work to promote policies that benefit Hoosier farmers, as well as his efforts to improve the EPA's Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule and his strong support of biofuels and the Renewable Fuel Standard.

#### ADVOCATING FOR AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

Joe knows the importance of exports to our agricultural community and has been advocating for smart trade policies that allow Hoosier farmers and businesses to compete on a level playing field as they sell their products to consumers around the world.

In February, Joe announced his support for bipartisan legislation, *the Agriculture Export Expansion Act of 2015*, which would lift the ban on banks and companies offering financing for the export of agricultural commodities to Cuba. The bill would help agricultural exporters, including Indiana agricultural producers, sell their products to the expanding market in Cuba.

Joe has also partnered with his colleagues to request that China adhere to a science-based system for approvals of the biotechnology products. The Chinese government has consistently committed itself to provide greater regulatory predictability, but those commitments have not yet resulted in significant action from China. As a result, Joe, joined by his Senate colleagues, sent letters in June and November to hold the Chinese government to the commitments they make so that Hoosier farmers can have competitive access to markets in China.

#### PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Knowing that farmers have the best incentives to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff – after all, no farmer wants their soil or farm inputs leaving their fields and washing downstream – Joe continues to advocate for voluntary conservation efforts that support local water and soil conservation initiatives.

In February, Joe welcomed USDA's announcement that it awarded Regional Conservation Partnership Program grants to Indiana conservation projects. One grant will implement nutrient and sediment reduction practices in the Big Pine watershed in west-central Indiana, and another grant will improve soil health on reclaimed mine lands in 11 southeast Indiana counties.

Hoosiers continue to lead the nation in conservation techniques like cover crops, and Joe will persist in ensuring that farmers have the resources and technical assistance they need to maintain and expand those efforts.

## **IMPROVING HEALTH CARE**

### **Improving Health Care**

Over the last year, Joe prioritized and supported efforts to improve the health of Hoosiers by investing in life-saving research to combat diseases like cancer and fight life-threatening epidemics like the Zika virus, and he worked to unleash medical innovation that will help save lives. Joe also continued his push to improve the health care law and questioned the skyrocketing price increases of EpiPens—a product on which many Hoosiers rely.

#### 21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

Joe helped the Senate pass the 21st Century Cures Act, which was signed into law in December 2016. The new law advances a range of his health priorities, including: strong investment in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and research to develop cures for diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and Alzheimer's; and measures that will spur medical innovation to help bring safe drugs and devices to market more quickly. Several provisions in the 21st Century Cures Act were similar to provisions in Joe's "Medical Innovation Agenda," which included several bills designed to:

- speed up getting life-saving products to the public and expediting review for breakthrough devices;
- streamline the review process for combination products that are both a drug and a device; and
- ensure that patient voices are incorporated into the drug review process.

## PUSHING FOR ZIKA FUNDING AND HIGHLIGHTING CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH AT PURDUE

Joe supported efforts to combat the Zika virus and highlighted the cutting edge, life-saving research in Indiana that contributed to efforts to better understand and confront Zika. As part of that effort, Joe hosted the National Institutes of Health Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., at Purdue University to tour the university's research laboratories and receive an update on Zika virus research happening on the West Lafayette campus.

Earlier in 2016, researchers in a Purdue lab discovered the structure of Zika, marking a significant step forward in understanding the virus. Purdue University received federal grant funding in 2016 to step up research efforts on the Zika virus. In the summer of 2016, Joe was the only Democrat to vote in favor of moving forward with legislation to fund more research to combat the Zika virus.



## **IMPROVING HEALTH CARE**

# PUSHING FOR REPEAL OF THE MEDICAL DEVICE TAX

Joe has long-advocated for the repeal of the medical device tax. In 2015, Joe helped get the medical device tax suspended for two years. As a result, Indiana medical device companies have been able to invest in new research and development projects. In December, Joe visited Zimmer Biomet in Warsaw to learn how the suspension of the device tax has helped the company invest in new innovative research and technology. Joe has continued to call for a full repeal of the medical device tax.





Like many Hoosiers, Joe is frustrated by the rising cost of prescription drugs and has been a vocal critic of drug companies like Mylan, which came under scrutiny after it had increased the price of EpiPens by 480 percent since 2009. After hearing from Hoosiers whose access to the EpiPen may be limited by the dramatic price increase, Joe questioned Mylan directly and criticized the company's decision-making, noting its pricing threatened families who count on the EpiPen. While the company made some changes to its pricing policies in 2016, Joe remains committed to ensuring Hoosiers are able to access this life-saving product.

Through his work on the Aging Committee, Joe also participated in a bipartisan investigation into the most egregious examples of abrupt and dramatic price increases of life-saving prescription drugs by companies such as Turing, Retrophin, Valeant, and Rodelis. In December his committee issued a report with a number of recommendations, including increasing competition, improving transparency, and a policy for drug importation.

A group of 20 U.S. senators have demanded new answers from Mylan, the maker of EpiPen, in wake of skyrocketing prices that have left many families in panic..."Mylan's near monopoly on the epinephrine autoinjector market has allowed you to increase prices well beyond those that are justified," the letter said.

Sen. Joe Donnelly (D-Ind.) was one senator voicing strong concern.

"I have heard from Hoosiers who simply cannot afford the EpiPen and have been forced to take the risk that their expired product will work in the event of an emergency," Donnelly said in a statement.

Fox 59, August 31, 2016

# **SUPPORTING SENIORS**

### **Supporting Seniors**

#### PLEDGING TO PROTECT MEDICARE

Every day, across Indiana and our country, millions of seniors rely on Medicare for the quality, affordable health care it provides. Indiana seniors have worked for a lifetime, counting on the care that Medicare provides and the young men and women working hard today expect to have Medicare when they retire.

Following discussions about the desire of some in Congress to privatize Medicare, Joe reiterated that he will oppose any effort to change the Medicare program as we know it. Privatizing Medicare, or turning it into a voucher system, would take seniors back to a time where they have to make difficult financial tradeoffs if they get sick or need good health coverage. It would mean higher out-of-pocket costs for seniors and higher insurance premiums for younger Americans.

Joe has said that if his colleagues have constructive ideas that would strengthen

Medicare, reduce the costs of care, crack down on waste, fraud, and abuse, he would welcome those efforts. If they propose policies to phase out Medicare or privatize the system, however, he would strongly oppose such efforts.



#### PROTECTING SENIORS FROM ABUSE AND SOCIAL MEDIA EXPLOITATION

Joe is committed to protecting the privacy of our seniors and ensuring they have the peace of mind to age with dignity. Following a ProPublica report in late 2015 that nursing home workers across the country had posted embarrassing and degrading photos of seniors on social media networks, Joe highlighted the report, which found there had been approximately three-dozen cases, including in Indiana, that violated the privacy and dignity of seniors, and in some instances, the law. In August 2016, Joe welcomed new guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that will better protect seniors from abusive behavior by nursing home staff, including staff taking inappropriate photos or videos of residents and sharing them on social media.

## **PROTECTING VOTING RIGHTS**

## **Protecting Voting Rights**

Joe believes the right to freely cast a ballot is central to what it means to be an American and a right that must be preserved and protected. As part of Joe's commitment to ensure that Americans' right to vote is not being denied on a discriminatory basis, he announced his support for the bipartisan *Voting Rights Advancement Act*. The legislation would restore voter protections that were undermined by the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*.

Joe announced his support for the Voting Rights Advancement Act on March 21, 2016 to coincide with the 51st anniversary of the beginning of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s third march from Selma to Montgomery. In March 2015, on the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, Joe participated in a civil rights pilgrimage in Alabama alongside civil rights leaders.



The right to freely cast a ballot is central to what it means to be an American and that right must be preserved and protected. We need to work together to ensure that Americans' fundamental right to vote is not being denied on a discriminatory basis. We should be making it easier for Americans to participate in the voting process, not harder.

-Joe

## **NATIONAL SECURITY AND MISSILE DEFENSE**

### National Security and Missile Defense

Joe believes that protecting our national security is his first and foremost responsibility to Hoosiers. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Joe has traveled to visit servicemembers across Indiana and around the world to see firsthand the work they do every day to keep our country safe.

#### ARMED SERVICES TRAVEL

#### Israel, UAE, Bahrain, Spain

As Ranking Member of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, Joe is focused on ensuring our nuclear arsenal and missile defense systems are ready and able to defend our country and allies at a moment's notice. To review American and allied missile defense systems in action, Joe led a congressional delegation to the Middle East, where he visited Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain in April 2016.

In Israel, Joe met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and visited several military sites to see American-supported missile defense systems that defend our allies and our troops deployed in the Middle East. He also met with the U.S. Ambassador to Israel and with Israel Defense Force soldiers. In the UAE, Joe met with Gulf State leaders about efforts to strengthen cooperation between their nations and the United States as we confront common adversaries. In Bahrain, Iraq, Spain, and on the U.S.S. Harry Truman, Joe took time to visit with Hoosier servicemembers working to protect our nation, including troops deployed in the fight against ISIS.



#### Israel, Afghanistan, Pakistan

Over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Joe joined with Senators John McCain (R-AZ), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), and Ben Sasse (R-NE) for a bipartisan trip to Israel, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The trip highlighted American counterterrorism efforts in the region, and Joe met again with Prime Minister Netanyahu to discuss our security partnership and joint missile defense efforts.

In Afghanistan, Joe met with Hoosier troops at Camp Resolute Support in Kabul and participated in a re-enlistment ceremony for deployed servicemembers. As part of his continued effort to meet directly with leaders of America's foreign partners, Joe also met with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Chief

### **NATIONAL SECURITY AND MISSILE DEFENSE**

Executive Abdullah Abdullah, and in Pakistan he met with military and civilian leaders to get an update on their efforts to combat terrorist activity on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

#### Ukraine, Georgia, Slovakia

Indiana has been blessed with leaders like former Senator Richard Lugar whose work on nuclear non-proliferation over the past 25 years has made the world a safer place. In the fall, Joe travelled to Ukraine and Georgia to see firsthand ongoing U.S.-backed work to combat the spread of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons through the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program. He was able to tour the Richard Lugar Center for Public and Animal Health Research in Tbilisi, Georgia.

On the trip, Joe also went to Slovakia to meet up with Major General Corey Carr, Indiana's Adjutant General, and members of the Indiana National Guard who were helping lead a major multinational joint training exercise with Slovak forces and other European allies.

### HISTORIC MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH ISRAEL



In addition to meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu in Jerusalem twice this year, Joe pushed throughout the year for the United States to finalize a new long-term foreign aid agreement with Israel, our greatest ally in the Middle East. In September, the new 10-year Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. and Israel was finalized. It will provide Israel with record military aid, including technologically-advanced missile defense systems, so that it can defend itself and its people.

#### SPEAKING OUT AGAINST IRAN AND NORTH KOREA

Joe has consistently focused on using America's economic power as a tool against our adversaries. In April, he spoke out against plans by the U.S. Treasury to allow Iran to use American currency for business transactions and lauded new sanctions placed against Iran after it conducted ballistic missile tests in violation of United Nations resolutions. Joe also has pushed for greater financial sanctions against North Korea in response to its missile testing activities.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS AND MILESTONES**

### Special Events and Milestones

# STATE OF THE UNION 2016 WITH HOOSIER JUDGE MARIA GRANGER

In January, Joe invited Judge Maria Granger of New Albany to be his guest at President Obama's final State of the Union. Judge Granger started Indiana's first Veterans Court to help veterans involved with the criminal justice system, especially those dealing with mental health issues or substance abuse, to get their lives back on track. Joe has supported the Veterans Court system in the Senate, including by successfully calling for increased funding for Veterans Courts in a letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee.



#### WHITE HOUSE CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE: JUSTIN PHILLIPS



In April, Joe announced that Justin Philips of Indianapolis was recognized as a "Champion of Change" by the White House. Donnelly nominated Justin Phillips in recognition of her continued work in the fight against Indiana's prescription opioid abuse and heroin epidemics. Since losing her son, Aaron Sims, 20, to a heroin overdose in 2013, Phillips has become a leading voice for families facing addiction in Indiana. She founded the non-profit Overdose Lifeline to help purchase and distribute naloxone, an opioid reversal drug in the Indianapolis area. She also worked with Indiana legislators on a bill known as Aaron's Law to expand access to naloxone throughout the state. As a "Champion of Change," Justin participated in a panel discussion at the White House in April 2016.

### U.S. DEFENSE SECRETARY CARTER HISTORIC VISIT TO NSA CRANE

In June, Joe hosted then-U.S. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter at Crane – after inviting Carter to come and see firsthand the important work happening at the base. Crane, which is Indiana's largest military facility, is home to numerous research laboratories, testing facilities, and cutting-edge technology development centers that are helping to provide our servicemembers with the best tools available to maintain a decisive advantage over our adversaries. During the historic visit – the first by a sitting Defense Secretary – Carter called Crane a "national treasure" with a "bright future."

## **SPECIAL EVENTS AND MILESTONES**

# KEEL-LAYING CEREMONY FOR USS INDIANAPOLIS

In July, Joe and his wife, Jill participated in the keel-laying ceremony for LCS-17, a U.S. Navy littoral combat ship, that will be named the USS Indianapolis. The event paid tribute to the crew and survivors of the original USS Indianapolis, which was sunk in World War II, and those who served during that war.





# INDIANA STATE FAIR TO HONOR INDIANA'S BICENTENNIAL

In August, Joe spoke at the Indiana State Fair about the state's farming heritage over the last 200 years, the evolution of farming in Indiana, and the future of Indiana's farmers.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. JOHN BRADEMAS ON THE SENATE FLOOR

In September, Joe honored the life and service of Dr. John Brademas, a Mishawaka native, who previously represented Hoosiers for 22 years in the U.S. House of Representatives and served as President of New York University. Joe honored Brademas for his dedication and achievements for Indiana and our country.

#### HONORING INDIANA'S BICENTENNIAL ON THE SENATE FLOOR

In December, Joe honored Indiana's Bicentennial on the Senate floor, including Indiana's rich history and the important contributions Hoosiers have made to Indiana and the United States' economy, agricultural community, infrastructure, education, and military for the last 200 years.

### Just Ask Joe

Joe works to ensure all Hoosiers' requests, questions, concerns, and opinions are heard. Whether it's a casework issue involving a federal agency, a concern or comment on pending legislation, requesting a U.S. Capitol tour, ordering a flag to be flown over the U.S. Capitol, or helping communities and organizations apply for federal grants, Joe maintains a high standard of service.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Joe heard from constituents in each of Indiana's 92 counties. Overall, the office logged a total of 169,227 contacts including 147,653 (87%) of which were received via email, 10,146 (6%) by phone call, and 11,173 (7%) from mail and fax.

#### **CASEWORK**

Joe's office resolved and closed 2,065 cases, assisting Hoosiers in all 92 counties who were having problems with federal agencies. As a result, Joe's office returned more than \$2.5 million in federal benefits to Hoosiers. The top



five most prevalent areas of casework in 2016 were with: the Veterans Administration; United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and Department of State; Social Security Administration; Internal Revenue Service; and Department of Education. The following stories are a few examples of Hoosiers "Just Asking Joe" to get the assistance they needed.

#### **Examples of Constituent Casework Success Stories**

#### Robert Tolliver. Mount Vernon

After having trouble obtaining a passport despite serving two tours in the Vietnam War, Robert Tolliver contacted Joe's office for assistance. Adopted at a young age, Robert did not have access to his original birth records. Donnelly's office, along with Posey County Sheriff Greg Oeth, contacted the State Department and the Indiana Bureau of Vital Records, and worked to resolve the issue. The Indiana Bureau of Vital Records provided the State Department with documentation, and Robert was able to secure his passport.



#### Junior Howell, Muncie

Joe's office worked to secure a Purple Heart for World War II veteran Junior Howell. Junior received the Purple Heart medal, exactly 72 years after he was injured in World War II. Junior was hit by shrapnel during the Battle of Peleliu in the Pacific on September 21, 1944.

#### Joe Perch, Knox

Joe Perch, a Navy veteran, who served during the Cuban Missile Crisis, contacted Joe's office seeking help to 72 years later, Hoosier WWII veteran awarded Purple Heart

MUNCIE, Ind. -- A World War II veteran was awarded one of the highest honors Wednesday morning in Muncie, more than seven decades after being wounded during combat.

Jones said once he got to know Howell and his story, he knew the veteran deserved to be honored. Jones and Delaware County Veterans Affairs Administrator, Jeni Honeycutt, got to work filling out the paperwork to get Howell his much deserved Purple Heart. After applying in 1993, Howell didn't get the award, but they tried again and eventually, with the help of Senator Joe Donnelly, the approval came through.

Senator Joe Donnelly (D) released this statement Wednesday.

"Junior Howell served our country with distinction during World War II, and it was a great honor to help him receive this long overdue Purple Heart. We owe our deepest gratitude to Junior Howell and thank him for his sacrifice"

get missing military medals he had earned and been waiting for 54 years to receive. Joe's office reached out to the Department of the Navy and secured four medals in recognition of his efforts to stop Russian ships from unloading cargo in Cuba.

#### Master Sergeant Guy Woodhouse, Kokomo

Joe's office helped secure 13 decorations and service medals for Master Sergeant Guy Woodhouse, a World War II and Korean veteran. After 70 years, Woodhouse's family finally received the medals he earned, including both a Silver Star and Bronze Star as well as a Purple Heart.

#### Justin Morseth, Bloomington

Justin Morseth, an Iraq War veteran, and his wife, Megan, contacted Joe's office seeking assistance with Justin's Social Security disability benefits. Morseth was awarded disability but had not received the back payments from benefits he was owed. Joe's office worked with the Social Security Administration on Justin's behalf and helped secure the back payments he was due.

#### Dawn Chapla, South Bend

Dawn Chapla contacted Joe's office seeking assistance after her son Jeremy, who has Prader-Willi syndrome, stopped receiving his Social Security benefits. Prader-Willi syndrome is a rare genetic condition. Joe's office worked with the Social Security Administration to have Jeremy's benefits reinstated.

#### Jeff Stamper, Henryville

Jeff Stamper contacted Joe's office when he was having issues with the Internal Revenue Service after his father passed away. After his father passed away, Jeff inherited Stamper Tax & Accounting. Even though Jeff's family sold the business, Stamper Tax & Accounting had a lien incorrectly placed on the business by the IRS. Joe's staff worked with the IRS to have the lien removed and Jeff received a refund from the IRS.



#### **TOURS**

Joe believes that his office is the office of every Hoosier. When Hoosier families or schools visit DC, Joe and his staff work to ensure they have the best possible experience. Joe's office offers staff-led tours of the Capitol building. In 2016, his office scheduled a total of 505 U.S. Capitol tours for 3,409 constituents from 60 counties.

#### **FLAGS**

Hoosiers can submit orders to Joe's office to receive flags that have been flown over the U.S. Capitol. In 2016, Joe's office processed a total of 170 flag requests for

259 flags for Hoosiers from 41 counties.



#### LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SURPLUS BOOKS PROGRAM

Joe's office works with schools and libraries to participate in the Library of Congress Surplus Books Program. The Library of Congress has surplus books available for donation to eligible organizations and institutions. Joe's office helps schools and public libraries build their book collections through this program. In 2016, Joe's office helped provide 694 books to schools and 7 libraries in 5 counties from around the state.

#### LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS AND INTERNSHIPS

In 2016, four people interested in public service served in Joe's D.C. office and worked with the legislative staff through his Wayne Townsend and Frank J. Anderson Legislative Programs. This is in addition to the 35 interns who worked in Joe's office across Indiana and in Washington, D.C.

The Wayne Townsend and Frank J. Anderson Legislative Programs were established in 2014 and named after two outstanding Hoosiers who dedicated their lives to public service.

Wayne Townsend, of Hartford City, was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives from Grant County and Blackford County. In 1970, he was elected to the Indiana State Senate and served sixteen years. Wayne Townsend passed away in 2015.

Frank J. Anderson, of Indianapolis, served as Deputy Sheriff of Marion County, and later served as a United States Marshal for the Southern District of Indiana and Marion County Sheriff.

These legislative programs aim to provide experience and educate future public servants on the legislative process and work on Capitol Hill. This past year, Joe's office had two Wayne Townsend and two Frank J. Anderson fellows.

- The Wayne Townsend program seeks a highly motivated, outstanding undergraduate or recent graduate with an interest in public service. The individual selected for the program will receive a stipend and must be able to work in Washington, D.C.
- The Frank J. Anderson program is designed to provide a highly motivated, outstanding individual who has an interest in military and defense issues, along with an interest in a career in public service, the opportunity to serve in Joe's Washington, D.C. office. The individual selected for the program will receive a stipend and must be able to work in Washington, D.C.

#### **SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS**

As a member of the U.S. Senate, Joe has the opportunity to nominate Hoosier high school students to attend one of our nation's service academies. In 2016, Joe nominated 34 young men and women for consideration for admittance in 2017 to the U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. These Hoosiers hail from 17 different counties. There were a total of 126 applicants.

#### **GRANTS**

Joe is committed to helping Hoosier communities, businesses, and not-for-profit organizations secure available grant funding to make a difference across our state. In 2016, Joe supported over 115 grant applications for projects across the state. For the year, more than \$20 million in federal funding came back to the state with Joe's support. If Indiana organizations and communities are not receiving this funding then other states are given the opportunity to benefit from Hoosier taxpayer dollars.

**Anderson Bridge:** Over the last several years, Joe has worked closely with the City of Anderson, the Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Secretary of Transportation to help the city secure a highly competitive grant through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant (TIGER) program. The grant will help Anderson and Madison County rebuild the crumbling Eisenhower Bridge that connects the city's core neighborhoods. The bridge is a critical component of Madison County's economic infrastructure and will be an economic boon for the region. **Award amount:** \$13,500,000

#### Indianapolis Recovery

Coordinator: With Joe's support, the City of Indianapolis received a competitive grant award from the U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Agency (EDA) to hire a Recovery Coordinator. The Recovery Coordinator will work to mitigate the hardships of unemployment and determine alternative employment opportunities, particularly for those impacted by

The City of Indianapolis received a \$355,000 grant to help the 1,400 Carrier workers who will lose their jobs when the plant closes and moves to Mexico.

"This federal grant will help hard-working Hoosiers find new employment opportunities, including those workers harmed by Carrier's decision to ship Hoosier jobs to Mexico," said Senator Donnelly, who wrote a letter supporting the city's grant application. "I was proud to support this effort to bring important, much-needed resources to Hoosier workers and attract new businesses to Indianapolis, helping local families and our community."

CBS 4, September 23, 2016

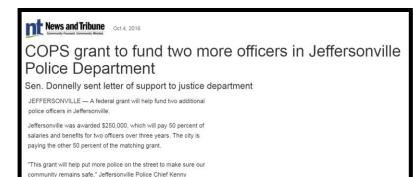
the job losses at of Indianapolis' Carrier facility over the next few years. Award Amount: \$355,000

*Indianapolis Airport:* Joe supported the Indianapolis Airport Authority's successful application for a Federal Aviation Administration grant. The grant will be used to help the Airport Authority rehabilitate the taxiways, the stormwater management system and emergency-notification equipment, for Indianapolis International Airport and its feeder airfields. **Award Amount:** \$1,467,141

*Jeffersonville Police Department and Hobart Police Department:* Joe supported successful applications from the Jeffersonville Police Department and Hobart Police Department for federal grants to hire new

police officers through the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program. The Jeffersonville Police Department received funding to hire two new officers and the Hobart Police Department received funding to hire an additional officer. **Award Amount:** \$250,000 Jeffersonville; \$125,000 Hobart – total \$375,000

Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault:
All Hoosier students deserve an education



without fearing for their personal safety. Joe supported the Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault's (ICESA) successful application to secure federal grant funding for their "Ending College Campus Sexual Assault" plan. ICESA will use the federal grant to partner with the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, IUPUI, Marian University, University of Indianapolis, Franklin College, DePauw University, IU Kokomo, IU Northwest, IUPUC, Butler University, Purdue University, St. Mary's College, and several domestic and sexual violence prevention nonprofit organizations to develop a comprehensive training and communications program. **Award Amount:** \$214,070

Kavanaugh stated. "We appreciate Senator Donnelly for his unwavering support of our department and city."

**Anderson Fire Department:** With Joe's support, the Anderson Fire Department was awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant from FEMA to support a wellness and fitness program that will help keep firefighters prepared to serve the community. Effective wellness and fitness programs contribute to safer, more efficient, and more effective responses to local emergencies, while protecting the well-being of firefighters. **Award Amount:** \$72,100

**Indiana Rural Health Association:** The Association was awarded a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to support the Indiana Statewide Rural Health Network and telehealth programs. This grant will mean more assistance to rural health providers in order to advance the availability and use of telehealth programs. **Award Amount:** \$300,000

Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority: With Joe's help, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority received federal funding for a project to support rental assistance for 75 Hoosier veterans. In addition to housing assistance, the grants will be used to connect veterans with health care, mental health services, and case management assistance. Joe wrote a letter to the Department of Housing and Urban Development supporting the application. The award came from HUD and its Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program, which provides rental assistance to homeless veterans along with support services. This funding will provide access for homeless veterans to affordable housing near the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care center in Lake County, reducing the barriers these veterans currently face in trying to access care. Award Amount: \$362,700

## **ENGAGING WITH HOOSIERS ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

### Engaging with Hoosiers on Social Media

Whether it's sharing good news about events and meetings with constituents or progress on his legislative priorities or spreading #GoodNews that's happening around the state, Joe wants to utilize every opportunity to let Hoosiers know how he's working for them. Here's a snapshot from Joe's social media accounts over the past year.



/senatordonnelly



@SenDonnelly



@sendonnelly



Senator Joe Donnelly

#ICYMI: Joe was recognized as the 4th most bipartisan member of Congress and the most bipartisan Democrat in Congress according to the Lugar Center Index. http://bit.ly/2ezVe8z

"I am the hired help and my job is to get things done for Indiana in the U.S. Senate. That responsibility has nothing to do with party affiliation and everything to do with supporting the best ideas, regardless of whether the idea comes from a Republican or a Democrat." -Joe WWW.DONNELLY.SENATE.GOV

Meet the 5 most bipartisan politicians in Congress

These five politicians were ranked as the most bipartisan members of Congress by The Lugar Center's 2015 Bipartisan Index.

CSMONITOR.COM | BY THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR



Senator Joe Donnelly @SenDonnelly · 5 Aug 2016

Good luck to all of our Hoosier athletes competing as part of @TeamUSA in the #Rio2016 Olympics! –Joe



WWW.DONNELLY.SENATE.GOV

**1**→ 7 ♥ 26 •••

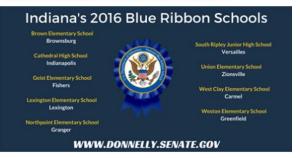


Great to talk with students and present flags to four of the outstanding teachers from Ft. Wayne's Holy Cross Lutheran School. –Joe



Congratulations to all of Indiana's 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools – Joe. The U.S. Department of Education recognized 9 Indiana schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools in 2016 based on overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps.

Senator Joe Donnelly



# **ENGAGING WITH HOOSIERS ON SOCIAL MEDIA**





sendonnelly



WWW.DONNELLY.SENATE.GOV



Senator Joe Donnelly @SenDonnelly - 9 Apr 2016

#GoodNews: 9 Indiana cities were ranked among the nation's leaders in manufacturing.



#### Report: Indiana Cities Among Manufacturing Lea...

A new report ranks several Indiana cities among the nation's leaders in manufacturing. The March/April report from Atlanta-based Garner Economics ranks ...

insideindianabusiness.com



Senator Joe Donnelly

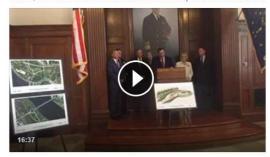
November 26, 2016 - @

Locally owned small businesses are a cornerstone of communities across Indiana. When our small businesses succeed, Hoosiers succeed. #smallbiz





Joe will provide an update on the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial that will be built in Washington, D.C. Donnelly is discussing the memorial with: Gulf War veteran and Hoosier native Scott Stump; Gulf War Veteran and former Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard; and a Gold Star mother, whose son made the ultimate sacrifice in Operation Desert Storm



### More Wisdom in Indiana

Joe believes there is more wisdom in Indiana than in Washington, D.C. Throughout the year, Joe continued to travel to every part of the state, and meet with Hoosiers of all different communities. In 2016, Joe again visited all 92 counties.

#### **DONNELLY DAYS**

"Donnelly Days" started in August of 2014, as an opportunity for Joe to work alongside Hoosiers, hear their experiences, and better understand the issues most important to them. In 2016, Joe had a total of 10

"Donnelly Days" across the state, including those highlighted below.

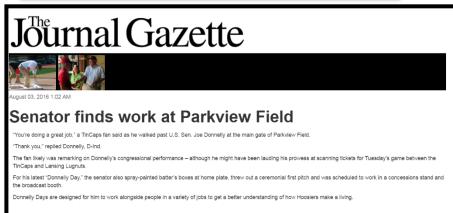
#### **New Albany Fire Department**

Joe visited the New Albany Fire
Department, where he worked
alongside more than a dozen
firefighters to receive hands-on
experience simulating fire rescue
operations and testing equipment.
Joe was joined by New Albany Fire
Chief Matthew Juliot, Battalion Chief
of Training Jake Barnes, and New
Albany Mayor Jeff Gahan.

#### Fort Wayne Tin Caps

As a lifelong baseball fan, Joe was honored to work a variety of jobs at the Fort Wayne TinCaps game. He collected tickets from fans attending the game, worked with the grounds crew, served food at a concession stand, and helped the play-by-play announcer in the broadcast booth.





#### UPS

Joe worked alongside a UPS driver, helping make deliveries to businesses in downtown Indianapolis, including to the Indiana Pacers and Indiana Fever at Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Sun King Brewery, and the Indiana Farm Bureau. He also met with UPS drivers who deliver packages across Indianapolis every day.

#### **Urschel Laboratories**

At Urschel Laboratories in Chesterton, Joe helped assemble a food processing machine, and tested a potato chip slicer. He saw firsthand Urschel Laboratories' work to manufacture slicers, dicers, shredders, and other food processing machinery used widely throughout the world.

#### Southern Indiana Career and Technical Center

Joe received 3D printing training, working alongside students at the Southern Indiana Carrier and Technical Center in Evansville. In addition, students taught him how to use an AutoCad program to generate an engineering diagram on a computer. Joe also spoke with faculty and staff and received an update about the technical training they provide as a STEM-certified school that focuses training and preparing students for high-skill, good-paying, and indemand jobs.







#### **GE** Aviation

Joe worked alongside Hoosiers at GE Aviation in Terre Haute, where he helped assemble a combustor for a LEAP engine. He also received hands-on experience with a lathe machine and was trained on laser-hole drilling, a cutting-edge process used for making engine parts.

#### **IN-STATE TRAVEL**

In 2016, Joe spent 223 days in Indiana, during which he visited 112 cities and towns and all 92 counties. He hosted and participated in 557 events and meetings.

#### HOSTING HOOSIERS IN WASHINGTON

Joe spends much of his time in D.C. meeting with Indiana groups including small business owners, labor leaders, school groups, local elected officials, and advocacy groups.

Below is a sampling of some of the meetings that took place in his D.C. office in 2016:

- Indiana JDRF
- Indiana FFA
- Indianapolis Fraternal Order of Police #86
- Indiana Disabled American Veterans
- Indiana Soybean Alliance
- Indiana Pork Producers Association
- Indiana Primary Health Care Association
- Indiana Rural Health Association
- Indiana Chamber of Commerce
- Indiana Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
- Fort Wayne Urban League Youth Leadership Conference
- Indiana Electric Cooperatives
- Habitat for Humanity of Indiana
- Drug Free Marion County
- Indiana Drug Enforcement Association
- Indiana Sheriffs Association
- USW Local 1999
- DeKalb County United Way and the Southwestern Indiana United Way
- Hoosier Participants of the U.S. Senate Youth Program
- Indiana Farm Bureau Leaders in Action
- Indiana Chapter of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network



- Indiana Chapter of The Arthritis Foundation
- Indiana Association of School Principals
- Epilepsy Foundation of Indiana

Joe values the time he is able to spend with students from across the state visiting D.C. Below is a list of elementary, middle, and high schools that Joe was pleased to meet students from:

- St. Monica Middle School
- Sycamore School
- Notre Dame School
- Holy Cross Lutheran
- Eastern Greene Middle School
- Milan Middle School
- Saint Pius X Catholic School
- Snider High School
- Rushville High School
- Elkhart Memorial High School
- George M Riddle Elementary School
- Schmucker Middle School
- Indianapolis Metropolitan High School

Throughout 2016, Joe hosted 15 constituent coffees in his Washington, D.C. office, and met with 13 school groups. While visiting the office, families, students, and groups get the chance to speak with Joe's staff, visit with fellow Hoosiers, and meet and take a photo with Joe.